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FRESNO
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PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

May 16, 2018

Stacey Love
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Field Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Esther Burkett
Nongame Wildlife Program
California Department of Fish and Game
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Results: April 6–May 11, 2018, Gothard Landfill, Huntington Beach, Orange County, California (LSA Project No. GEO1601E)

Dear Ms. Love and Ms. Burkett:

This letter report documents the results of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) protocol surveys LSA conducted for OC Waste and Recycling (OCWR) at Gothard Landfill in Huntington Beach, Orange County, California. The surveys were conducted on 10.3-acres of the closed Gothard Landfill (see Figures 1 and 2; all figures attached) to determine the presence or absence of coastal California gnatcatcher to assist with planning for future site use. The surveys were performed within areas that have existing coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat that may be suitable for gnatcatchers. Coastal California gnatcatchers were not detected during any of the six protocol surveys.

SURVEY AREA

The survey area is west of Gothard Street, northeast of Lake Ranc, and adjacent to the Huntington Beach Central Sports Park Complex. The project site is located on the *Newport Beach* and *Seal Beach, California* 7.5-minute series United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps; T5S, R11W, and S35 (Figure 1). The survey area elevation ranges from approximately 25 to 75 feet above mean sea level. The survey area is a 10.3-acre closed refuse disposal facility that is owned and maintained by OCWR.

The vegetation within the landfill is dominated by native CSS species (California encelia [*Encelia californica*]) with a few nonnative ruderal vegetation and disturbed patches scattered throughout the site (Figure 2). There are 8.0 acres of suitable gnatcatcher habitat within the survey area.

METHODS

During each survey, an LSA biologist walked slowly throughout the portions of the survey areas that support potential suitable habitat for California gnatcatchers. A recording of a coastal California gnatcatcher was played during each survey. A total of six gnatcatcher surveys were conducted between April 6 and May 11, 2018 (see table below for details). LSA biologists conformed to protocol techniques for all surveys.

A presurvey notification letter dated March 22, 2018, was sent to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Permitted biologist Eric Krieg conducted a protocol survey every week for a total of six surveys. Mr. Krieg conducted surveys pursuant to LSA's Federal Fish and Wildlife 10(a)(1)(A) Permit TE-777965 and CDFW attachments to Scientific Collecting Permit SC-000777 providing Conditions for Research on Listed Birds (November 29, 2012–January 31, 2017).

Survey Conditions

Survey	Date	Time	Weather Conditions (start/end)	Surveyor
1	April 6, 2018	0800-0900	Partly cloudy, 0.06 mph, 66.8°F/partly cloudy, 1.8 mph, 64.1°F	EK
2	April 13, 2018	0745-0845	Clear, 0.9 mph, 58.5°F/clear, 0.8 mph, 66.2°F	EK
3	April 20, 2018	0720-0820	Mostly cloudy, 1.0 mph, 56.5°F/clear, 0.8 mph, 63.5°F	EK
4	April 27, 2018	0740-0840	Overcast, 1.2 mph, 59.5°F/overcast, 0.7 mph, 59.9°F	EK
5	May 4, 2018	0735-0835	Clear, 0.7 mph, 62.2°F/clear, 0.9 mph, 69.1°F	EK
6	May 11, 2018	0800-0900	Overcast, 2.5 mph, 63.2°F/overcast, 2.5 mph, 63.9°F	EK

Surveyor: EK = Eric Krieg

°F = degrees Fahrenheit

mph = miles per hour

RESULTS

No California gnatcatchers were detected within or immediately adjacent to the survey area during the six focused gnatcatcher surveys.

Brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), a brood parasite of gnatcatchers and other passerines, was not observed during the surveys. A complete list of animals detected during the surveys is attached.

Please contact me at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions about these survey results.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Eric Krieg

Associate

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Survey Area Map
Animal Species Detected

cc: John Aurnau, OC Waste and Recycling
Weena Dalby, OC Waste and Recycling

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SURVEY REPORT AND ATTACHED EXHIBITS FULLY AND ACCURATELY REPRESENTS MY WORK:

SURVEYOR

PERMIT NUMBER

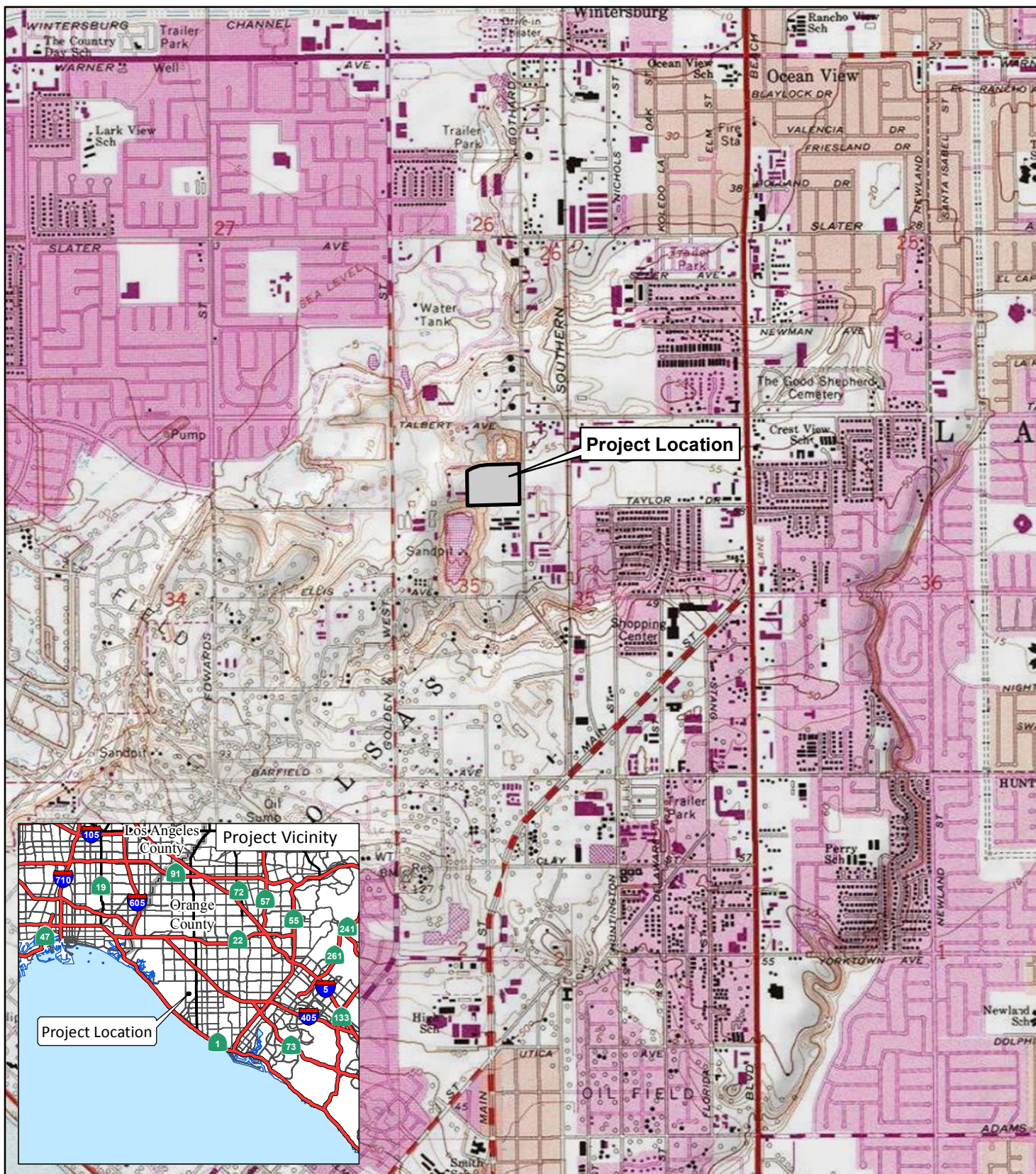
DATE



Eric Krieg, Associate

TE-777965-10

May 16, 2018

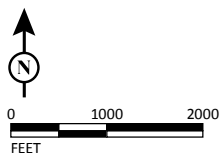


LSA

LEGEND

 Project Location

FIGURE 1



SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Newport Beach (1981), Seal Beach (1981)

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




Protocol Survey for the
Coastal California Gnatcatcher
Project Location

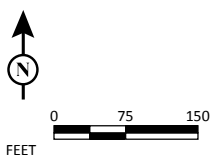


FIGURE 2

LSA

LEGEND

	Project Location (10.30 Ac)		Ornamental (0.30 Ac)
Vegetation			Ruderal (0.20 Ac)
	Developed (1.50 Ac)		Suitable Gnatcatcher Habitat (8.04 Ac)
	Disturbed (0.25 Ac)		



SOURCE: Esri (2017)

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*Gothard Landfill
Gnatcatcher Survey Area
Vegetation*

ANIMAL SPECIES DETECTED

This is a list of the conspicuous aerial insects (i.e., damselflies, dragonflies, and butterflies), bony fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals noted in the study area by LSA biologists. Presence may be noted if a species is seen or heard, or identified by the presence of tracks, scat, or other signs.

* Species not native to the study area

LEPIDOPTERA

Nymphalidae

Danaus plexippus

REPTILIA

Phrynosomatidae

Sceloporus occidentalis

AVES

Columbidae

* *Streptopelia decaocto*
Zenaida macroura

Trochilidae

Calypte anna
Selasphorus rufus/sasin

Cathartidae

Cathartes aura

Accipitridae

Buteo jamaicensis

Falconidae

Falco sparverius

BUTTERFLIES

Brush-Footed Butterflies

Monarch

REPTILES

Phrynosomatid Lizards

Western fence lizard

BIRDS

Pigeons and Doves

Eurasian collared-dove
Mourning dove

Hummingbirds

Anna's hummingbird
Rufous/Allen's hummingbird

New World Vultures

Turkey vulture

Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

Red-tailed hawk

Caracaras and Falcons

American kestrel

Tyrannidae

Contopus sordidulus
Sayornis nigricans
Tyrannus vociferans

Corvidae

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Hirundinidae

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Aegithalidae

Psaltiriparus minimus

Troglodytidae

Troglodytes aedon

Poliophtilidae

Poliophtila caerulea

Sturnidae

* *Sturnus vulgaris*

Fringillidae

Haemorhous mexicanus
Spinus psaltria
Spinus tristis

Passerellidae

Melospiza crissalis
Melospiza melodia
Zonotrichia leucophrys

Parulidae

Geothlypis trichas
Setophaga petechia
Setophaga coronata
Cardellina pusilla

MAMMALIA**Leporidae**

Sylvilagus audubonii
Sylvilagus bachmani

Tyrant Flycatchers

Western wood-pewee
 Black phoebe
 Cassin's kingbird

Crows and Jays

American crow

Swallows

Cliff swallow

Long-Tailed Tits and Bushtits

Bushtit

Wrens

House wren

Gnatcatchers and Gnatwrens

Blue-gray gnatcatcher

Starlings

European starling

Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies

House finch
 Lesser goldfinch
 American goldfinch

New World Sparrows

California towhee
 Song sparrow
 White-crowned sparrow

Wood Warblers

Common yellowthroat
 Yellow warbler
 Yellow-rumped warbler
 Wilson's warbler

MAMMALS**Rabbits and Hares**

Audubon's cottontail
 Brush rabbit

Canidae*Canis latrans***Foxes, Wolves, and Allies**

Coyote

Sciuridae*Otospermophilus beecheyi***Squirrels, Chipmunks, and Marmots**

California ground squirrel

Taxonomy and nomenclature are based primarily on the following:

Butterflies: North American Butterfly Association (2001, NABA Checklist and English Names of North American Butterflies, Second Edition, North American Butterfly Association, Morristown, New Jersey, 2003 update in *American Butterflies* 11: 24-27; see <http://www.naba.org/pubs/checklst.html>).

Amphibians and Reptiles: Crother, B.I. ed. (2017, Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in our Understanding. Eighth Edition. *Herpetological Circular* 43.) for species taxonomy and nomenclature; AmphibiaWeb (<https://amphibiaweb.org/>) and The Reptile Database (www.reptile-database.org/) for higher order taxonomy; see also California Herps (<http://www.californiaherps.com/index.html>).

Birds: American Ornithological Society (1998, The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition, American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.; and supplements; see <http://checklist.aou.org/taxa>).

Mammals: Bradley, R. D. et al. (2014, Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 2014. Museum of Texas Tech University Occasional Papers No. 327).